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### EPA Region 7 Desk Statement MDHSS Study

EPA Region 7 is reviewing the Coldwater Creek area cancer study conducted by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. As EPA continues to exercise its authorities under the Superfund law, we will consider the MDHSS study as part of the body of scientific data. We know the data will be of concern to many; and, while MDHSS is seeking the involvement of ATSDR and the CDC for further studies, we want people to know that we are aggressively pursuing a final remedy at the West Lake Landfill site to ensure the protection of public health there.

EPA appreciates the work of MDHSS in producing this report, and look forward to continued cooperative efforts with MDHSS and other partners as we work to protect human health and the environment in and around the St. Louis area.

There is a substantial level of public interest in the nuclear contamination risk and the difficult scientific and engineering issues that this agency and others must address in the St. Louis area.

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#### Background for Use in Interviews

During the past six months EPA has already completed important efforts at the West Lake site including:

- Partnership with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – EPA negotiated and signed two Interagency Agreements with USACE for technical assistance with the Isolation Barrier project and the remedy selection process. The USACE has produced an Isolation Barrier Alternatives Assessment and has taken an active role at monthly Community Advisory Group meetings.
- Local Field Office – The EPA established a local field office at Robertson Fire Protection District to act as a control center. The team of EPA On-Scene Coordinators and contractors manage the air monitoring network, and has worked closely with the Fire Department on response planning. The field office has recently been relocated due to planned construction activities at the Fire Station.
- Pre-Construction – EPA negotiated a consent order with the Potentially Responsible Parties for pre-construction activities. The work plan has been prepared and approved, the offsite air monitoring system has been put in place, and litter fencing has been installed by the PRPs.
- Off-Site Air Monitoring – EPA established an air monitoring system in the offsite areas surrounding the West Lake Landfill Site. This system includes 5 air monitoring stations that collect data for a variety of things including gamma radiation, radon, alpha, beta, and gamma-emitting radionuclides, volatile organic compounds, and landfill gases.
- Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex (BMAC) – EPA completed a comprehensive surface gamma screening and soil sampling effort, which demonstrated no radionuclide contamination above a level of health concern.
- Expanded Public Communications – EPA has expanded its efforts to provide timely and accurate information to the public through the publication of a routine newsletter called the West Lake Update. In addition, EPA funds a contract to provide technical support for the

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- EPA's plans for the immediate future:
  - EPA will closely review the MDHSS study.
  - EPA will review the detailed plans for the Isolation Barrier alignment alternatives due to the agency from the Potentially Responsible Parties in mid October.
  - EPA will review the Bird Mitigation plans due mid October, and will coordinate that review with the St. Louis Airport Authority and FAA.
  - EPA expects the USGS report regarding groundwater data in the near future. This report is vital in developing a final remedy.
  - EPA continues to press hard toward selection of a final remedy. We expect to approve work plans very soon for the next stages of Feasibility Study work that must be completed to support a new Proposed Plan and Record of Decision.

### Background on SLAPS, Coldwater Creek FUSRAP

Located approximately four miles from the West Lake Landfill is the North County FUSRAP St. Louis Airport sites (SLAPS), which include Coldwater Creek. These sites are managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers following the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). FUSRAP tasks the USACE to clean up designated sites that were nuclear weapons production locations with federal funds. The remedy for the SLAPS involves USACE contractors excavating radioactive-contaminated soils from private and municipally owned properties and shipping by rail car to disposal facilities in Idaho and Utah.

Investigations by the EPA, DOE and USACE have attributed potential radiological contamination in Coldwater Creek to runoff or windblown migration of the prior storage of uranium-processing residues and wastes from the North County Portion of SLAPS sites. The USACE removed the North County sources of these wastes, which came from ore-processing activities at the Downtown portion of SLAPS sites.